

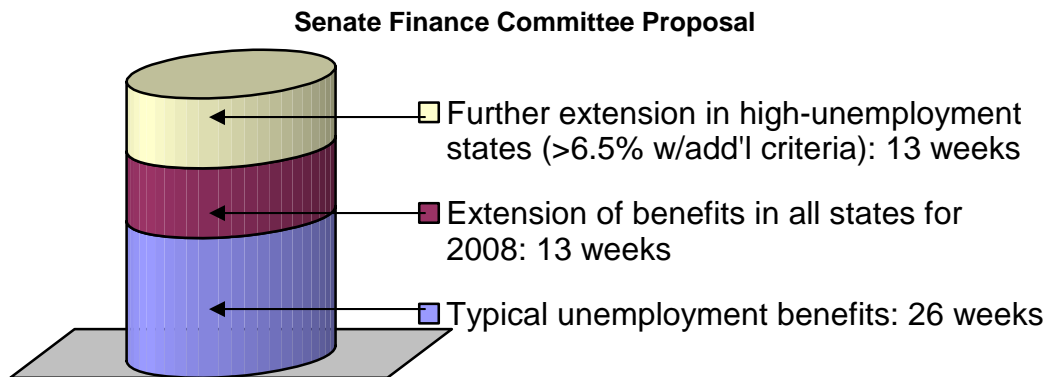


## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS: HELP FOR HURTING FAMILIES, QUICK CASH FOR THE ECONOMY

The nation's unemployment rate recently hit a two-year high of five percent – but unemployed Americans caught up in the economic downturn will be left out of economic stimulus efforts unless Congress acts. Extended unemployment benefits for 2008 are a timely, targeted, temporary measure that will boost the American economy by giving unemployed Americans dollars they need – and will spend – while looking for work.

### **Additional benefits will help hurting families while infusing cash into the economy.**

The length of unemployment insurance benefits varies from state to state – typically lasting about 26 weeks. The Finance Committee proposal would make additional benefits available to jobless Americans who exhaust their regular unemployment benefits before December 31, 2008. Americans in states that meet certain criteria for high unemployment would be entitled to an additional 13 weeks of benefits.



Recipients beginning a 13-week extension of benefits before December 31, 2008 will be eligible to receive the remainder of that entire 13-week extension even if benefits continue into the first three months of 2009.

### **Many jobless Americans will run out of unemployment benefits – soon.**

As of December 2007, more than one million Americans had been unemployed for 27 weeks or more. More than 1.5 million Americans are set to exhaust their UI benefits between January and June, making their financial situations tighter than ever.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Estimates based on data from U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.